

THE MCGILL DAILY

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1994

African Studies Major in danger again

By Robin Perelle

Call me naive, but when the *Daily* reported on September 19 that students in the African Studies Major had finally won the battle to preserve their program, I really thought the victory would last. It seems, however, that at McGill University constant vigilance is a necessity.

The very existence of the African Studies Program is already so tenuous that the loss of one professor, who teaches three courses, could mean the end of the major.

This time the threat comes from the Anthropology Department. If they do not find an Africanist to assume the course load formerly taught by Professor Aronson, the interdisciplinary program will not have enough African-content courses to meet the requirements for a major degree.

This is not the first time the African Studies Major has faced possible extinction, despite concerted student efforts to maintain and even expand the program. Last spring, teachers tried to cut the major to a minor, claiming that a lack of available courses and resources had left them no choice.

But the Arts Faculty is not short of resources. Rather, it should come as no surprise that available funds and professors are being directed towards the study of more lucrative areas of the globe, such as East-Asia.

"[The Anthropology Department] was thinking of putting the focus on East-Asia since it is such a booming economic market, and Africa isn't economically viable to the West anymore," said Astrid Jacques, a member of the African Studies Committee, who attended the departmental meeting on November 2.

Students from the African Studies Committee attended the meeting to voice concerns about the department's advertisement for Professor Aronson's permanent replacement.

Replacing Aronson, who left McGill last spring to take a position at the World Bank, should mean finding another qualified Africanist to maintain the African focus usually taken in his three undergraduate-level Anthropology courses. But the ad placed by McGill called only for specialists in development issues, without specifying any geographic area.

Jacques said the failure to close the position to non-Africanists presents a serious threat to the African Studies Program. If the new professor changes the focus of the Anthropology of Development (151-212B) for example, the course could no longer count towards a major degree in African Studies.

With the program's survival already in jeopardy, it cannot afford to lose Professor Aronson's three courses.

As a result of the meeting, the Anthropology department decided to add the word Africanist to the advertisement, but still failed to make Africa the sole focus of the job description.

"Priority will be given to Africanist applicants but outstanding candidates in other fields are welcome to apply," reads the revised version of the hiring ad.

Jacques said she was incensed by the department's reluctance to exclusively encourage Africanists to apply.

"These people were saying 'we sympathize with the African Studies Program, but we want to get a qualified, top of the line professor'. Where is the contradiction? You can't get an Africanist who's qualified?" she fumed.

Anthropology Professor John Galaty said he does not think his department will have a problem

finding a qualified Africanist, but maintained that opening the applications to other outstanding candidates was a good idea.

"I strongly supported the African Studies' side but I also support the second part [of the ad]," said Galaty. "I don't think it's bad to say outstanding candidates can apply too. We're in a time of tight budgetary constraints and if we don't fill the position we may lose it," he explained.

Aware of the similar risk being faced by the African Studies Major, Galaty said he is committed to maintaining a strong African focus within the Anthropology department. "We currently have 100 students enrolled in the various African anthropology courses... [and] in a recent study McGill was found to have more graduate-level theses on African topics than any other Canadian university. So we have to see our own involvement in the context of the rest of Canada," Galaty said.

"We have to make sure that the

traditional commitments are upheld... We can't just chuck the rest of the world aside because of the increased interest in South-East Asia," he continued.

The revised ad, with its nominal concession to student concerns, has been sent to the Canadian Association of University Teachers' newsletter, the American Anthropological newsletter, and various Anthropology departments around the world. It

was also posted on African e-mail networks in an attempt to encourage African scholars to apply.

Galaty admitted that "there was some uncertainty in the beginning of the year in the Anthropology department about whether [to] keep an African focus." Unfortunately, the debate is still far from resolved, and the survival of the African Studies Major once again hangs in the balance.

NOTICE

What you can do about the "Green Book"

Le Conseil Communautaire de Cote-des-Neiges/Snowdon is holding an information session and a discussion about the recent Axworthy Proposals on Social Reform. The session will be held at 5829 Chemin de la Cote-des-Neiges at 19h on Thursday, November 17.

Everyone is encouraged to participate, especially those who attend the protest in Ottawa today. This discussion is part of a larger scheme to prepare for the arrival of the Consultation Committee on the Green Book on December 6. Le Coalition pour la Servie des Programmes Sociaux is planning a gathering outside of the consultations.

For more information, please contact Marie Paul Garande at the Cote-des-Neiges council (739 7731).

First Nations eye sovereignty

Cree and Mohawk leaders express their views on an independent Québec

By Raizel Robin

THE QUESTION HAS been making the front pages of some of Canada's major newspapers for the past few months: If Québec decided to separate, would it be legally able to take with it the 150,000 square miles of forest that constitute the Cree homeland? The area also happens to be the "homeland" of former premier Robert Bourassa's "baby": the James Bay hydroelectric projects. The question is, would the Cree nation want to stay in an independent Québec?

And what about the Mohawk nation? Considering the Oka crisis and their tense relations with the Sûreté du Québec, would the Mohawk not prefer to stay in Canada, where they would at least have the Federal government to appeal to? Many have argued that the interests of both the Cree and Mohawk nations lie primarily with the Federal government, with which the nations have made their treaties, and which recognizes aboriginal treaty rights under the Constitution Act of 1982.

Not so, said Kenneth Deer, editor for Kahnawake's *Eastern Door*, and Bill Namagoose, the Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec), during their November 11 talk at Concordia University, sponsored by Indige-

nous Peoples International.

As Deer put it, the friction between Canada and Québec is "a fight among brothers," and the Mohawk would rather not take sides. Namagoose concurred with this sentiment.

Deer was quick to point out that much progress could be made with Québec regarding Mohawk and Cree self-government "if Parizeau is smart."

Namagoose agreed, but also mentioned that the Québec government had not shown any understanding of aboriginal rights. He added that, like the Federal government, Parizeau interprets land claim agreements to mean that land may be transferred to "native bands" in exchange for the extinguishment of their inherent aboriginal rights. Namagoose echoed the sentiments of many First Nations by defining aboriginal land rights as "fundamental human rights given by the Creator."

Namagoose also said that Québec media have portrayed the Cree as enemies of Québec by focusing on their fight against the Great Whale hydroelectric project. "But," he argued, "our fight is one for Québec, for the land, for the rivers, for the people."

Namagoose and Deer both men-

continued on page 2



In 1990, Mohawks took part in an Oka support march on Parliament Hill. Would the First Nations fare better in negotiations with an independent Québec?

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Place: 1550 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West
GM Building, Room 403-2
RSVP: 848-2711



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REAL EDUCATION FOR THE REAL WORLD

continued from page 1

tioned that, under international law, Québec does not have the right to separate, but that this legality would be ignored, should Québeckers vote to leave Canada. Deer reiterated Namagoose's sentiment by asking, "Why does this right [to waive international law] apply to Québec, but not to the Mohawk?"

In the context of a separate Québec, Deer said the Mohawk would continue to defend their boundaries. But Québec's territorial worries, seem to presently remain focused on the Cree nation. Under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (1975), the Cree's usage rights to the land were settled and a regime was set up to assess environmental considerations in case any further projects should begin in Cree territory. Under the Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act (1984), the federal government recognised the sovereignty of the Cree in the area of local government, which is backed by a Cree constitution.

However, Cree leaders and advocates argue that the terms under JBNQA and the Cree-Naskapi Act have not been respected, and thus Québec's entire claim to the northern part of the province is still in jeopardy. Namagoose maintained that the issue of land rights "is not a bidding game, we want respect for Cree rights."

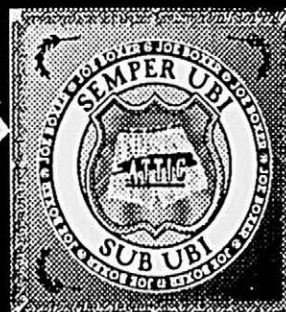
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Garbage, garbage

QPIRG takes out **everywhere** the trash

by Marc Muri

What do you do with an Enviro mug, used syringes, photocopier toner and telephone wire? Well, if you are the average McGill student, you throw them in the garbage.

These items are just a small slice of the SIX TONNES of discarded material McGill's inhabitants throw away on an average day. The McGill chapter of the Quebec Public Research Group (QPIRG) discovered these and other interesting finds on October 21, when it held Québec's first ever large-scale waste audit.

The event, which attempted to separate the garbage by material, was held on McGill's football field and attracted curious attention from students and media alike. The goal of this enormous undertaking was to get a better understanding of what exactly McGill disposes of on a typical day.

Donning overalls, surgical gloves and goggles, and using snow-shovels, over 100 volunteers spent six hours trying to separate the garbage into various recyclable sections: paper, cardboard, plastic, organic waste, glass and aluminum cans.

The idea for the garbage party was conceived two years ago, when Alison Dudley, coordinator of McGill QPIRG, decided that McGill's environmental policy needed change. She discussed topics with the Waste Management Committee. It was decided that QPIRG focus on paper recycling, yet, said Dudley, "McGill had no idea what it was throwing out. They had no data on solid waste."

A year later, it was clear that the only way to make solid recommendations was to conduct a waste audit. Dudley submitted a report in October 1993 encouraging a sort, which received the OK from vice-president of Physical Resources, Sam Kingdon. This past summer, Alex Hill and Simeon Stairs (coordinators of OCWM) were busy drafting up the final plan, and, Presto, a waste audit!

What lurks inside the garbage?

The sort turned up some disturbing results: of all the recyclable material, 50 per cent was paper, the only material McGill seriously attempts to recycle. On top of that, 27.5 per cent was cardboard, 6.7 per cent glass, while the rest was other metals, aluminum cans and plastics. Finding enormous amounts of recyclable materials in McGill's garbage should come as no surprise. We Canadians are the

world's largest waste generators per capita, beating out the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan.

What is even more disturbing was the large amount of recyclable products that were contaminated by other products, and could no longer be recycled. Simeon Stairs commented, "much of what ended up in the garbage bin during the sort was likely recyclable when it was first thrown out. That's what

According to the Guide, every Canadian produces approximately one tonne of garbage each year. If we were to see this pile gradually accumulate inside our rooms or apartments, maybe we would have a different attitude towards garbage.

you get when the garbage is compacted."

According to the *Canadian Green Consumer Guide*, paper and cardboard account for 36 per cent of the average household garbage. With universities, this number is almost double. According to a 1992 survey done by the University of Illinois, paper comprises up 60 per cent of a university's waste.

Presently, blue bins for paper are scattered around the campus. Yet the greater number of garbage bins makes it more attractive for students to dump their paper there, than to walk around finding bins. As well, McGill's classrooms and many of its libraries (photocopy rooms excluded) do not contain bins — tempting students to take the easy way out.

Talk is Cheap

It may be fashionable to talk about the environment in the

1990s, but as the audit demonstrated, talk does not guarantee responsible action. To deal with this problem, QPIRG is working on many awareness projects intended to make students think twice before simply throwing something away.

One of these projects is creating and distributing to students around campus paper pads containing blank sides of used photocopy paper. Many students seem to believe that sheets have only one side. Should a photocopy not come out as planned, most students place it in the recycling bin, or even worse, the garbage.

Another project is to place environmental messages above garbage cans, forcing the student to ponder if the piece of paper or soda can could be recycled after all?

Even with these "mini projects", OCWM wants to attack a major issue next term. Said Hill: "We are now processing the [audit's] results and will use them immediately in order to instigate change very quickly next semester."

Possible targets include expanding the recycling process to allow users to recycle plastic bottles and cardboard, having blue boxes in every classroom and office and eliminating styrofoam from the cafeteria.

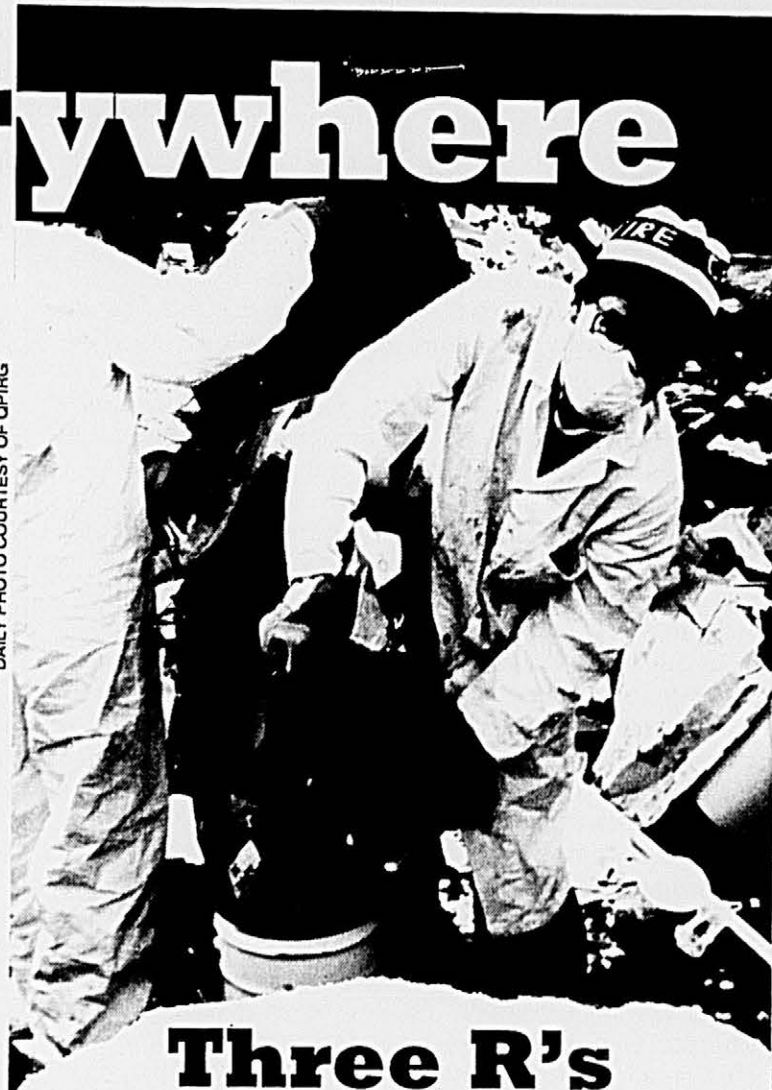
It is obvious that much more needs to be done to improve the waste situation here at McGill, as well as improve consistency. "Recycling needs to be visible; it needs to be advertised," said Dudley. Right now, recycling stations for glass bottles and aluminum cans exist only in cafeterias, and are not prominently displayed.

Not everyone at McGill has access to the same facilities. For example, Engineering students can recycle styrofoam in their cafeteria, something the rest of McGill students, and most of Montreal, in fact, cannot.

Yet, is the abundance of recyclable materials in our trash a result of ignorance or laziness? OCWM is now asking its members to go around campus armed with an environmental questionnaire, the results of which will aid the group in determining people's awareness when it comes to recycling. "The survey allows us to finally find out why students aren't recycling," said Stairs.

It seems as if the environment is at the bottom of everyone's "To Do" list these days. When one thinks of parties, dates, what to have for supper, life after graduation,

DAILY PHOTO COURTESY OF QPIRG



Three R's

We have all heard about the "three R's", but have we really internalized them? QPIRG's waste audit suggests that the message is not getting through. Just a refresher:

1. Reduce
2. Reuse
3. Recycle

Reducing refers to avoiding the purchase of gimmicks, wasteful products and useless packaging, and to opting for quality products that last. Many people have trouble following the simple motto: Don't buy what you don't need. This refers to bringing your own bag while shopping, using your own refillable mug at school or work and avoiding disposable pens, razors, cameras, etc.

Perhaps the best example on campus of **Reusing** is using scrap paper for notes and writing. Everyday, thousands of perfectly usable sheets are dumped or recycled. Yet, students use brand new looseleaf sheets for note taking, usually using only one side. The question is simple: Can I use this item again?

Finally, most people are aware of **Recycling**, yet most do not realize that energy is used when materials are recycled. The first two steps should always be considered before recycling. Having said that, people *should* still recycle products instead of letting them contribute to the increasing landfills or the pollution produced from the incinerators.

overdue assignments, that paper due five hours from now, etc., it is easy to see why waste issues are not people's priority. Yet, that is always the case with matters that do not affect us directly.

According to the *Guide*, every Canadian produces approximately one tonne of garbage each year. If we were to see this pile gradually accumulate inside our rooms or apartments, we would have a different attitude towards garbage.

Clearly, the neglect the environment has received from governments, politicians, and ultimately, ourselves, cannot continue to exist unchecked. The constant desire for chlorine-bleached, virgin paper leads to an increased demand for wood. This removes oxygen-producing trees from forests and the

many species inhabiting them. This results in the massive clear-cutting that is going on today, like in Clayoquot Sound, British Columbia, which has received worldwide attention.

It seems telling that such environmental ignorance exists at an institution of higher learning. We spend all day in the classroom, but the simple, basic act of recycling remains elusive. It is up to all of us, McGill students included, to not look at garbage as something which magically disappears into the mechanical jaws of the garbage truck. Our empty bottles and class notes don't become garbage until we throw them away. Garbage, after all is said and done, is nothing more than resources gone unharvested.

COMMENT

Hijab debate misses the point

In the midst of the newly popular controversy about the 'oppression' of Muslim women through the hijab (which, by the way, is not 'veiling'), everyone seems to have forgotten one small thing: there is more to Muslim women than the hijab. Yet any and every discussion in which women and Islam come up inevitably degenerates into a pro-/anti-hijab rally, where either Muslim women are submissive victims wearing their oppression on their heads, or "Western" women are deluded, self-objectified sex slaves.

Following are a few facts that might clarify things and allow us to move out of petty oppositional dialogue and into more productive discourse.

First of all, regardless of whether or not they wear it, the hijab is not the number one defining characteristic of Muslim women; just as the miniskirt, for example, is not the number one defining characteristic of "Western" women.

Not all Muslim women choose to wear the hijab, just as not all "Western" women choose to wear the miniskirt. Of the women who do (wear hijab and/or miniskirts — incidentally, some do both), there are thousands of different motivating reasons for thousands of different women; amongst which are often a strong self-pride and independence.

Moreover, Muslim and "Western" women are not always mutually exclusive. A lot of Muslim women — with and without hijab — are born and brought up in the West. Attempting to discuss Muslim women as though they come from a geographical entity called Islam is a gross oversimplification that completely ignores the cultural and ideological diversity amongst Muslim women.

Finally, couching discussion with and about "Western" and Muslim women solely in terms of the hijab is a really easy, really dangerous way of silencing some other, more pressing issues. The question of how mainstream "Western" feminism is crippled by its ethnocentrism is neatly sidestepped, as are questions of how both Muslim and "Western" societies may oppress women in ways that are real and relevant to their cultural contexts. The class breakdown of gender in Muslim societies and of Muslim women in "Western" societies and its implications in representation are also conspicuously absent in the discourse revolving around women, Islam and feminism.

The Hijab is very important to many Muslim women, both amongst those who do and do not wear it. It is not, however, the central issue of concern to an enormous heterogeneous population of Muslim women, nor is it the only one. The sooner this is recognized, the sooner space can be made to grapple with other equally important issues.

by Laila Malik

LETTERS

Censorship obscures facts

To the Daily,

As we approach the twenty first century, it is disturbing to see a newspaper in trouble for having a picture of the human body. The issue here is more than the fact that a society still has not learned how to deal with sexuality in a mature way. Newspapers have a tremendous responsibility and regretfully on this globe it is what they censor that

is often the most vital knowledge. During the Nazi era, the London Times, which many considered the finest paper of its time, was the only paper receiving certain information. They chose not to print it for they did not want to offend. The inside information they were receiving concerned the actual policies of the German government in the 1930s.

David Rovins, arts

CORRECTION

In Lisa Grushcow's letter (published in the November 15 issue), the Daily incorrectly printed, "there are issues in Québec more important than separation." This sentence should have been, "there are issues in Québec other than separation." The Daily apologizes for this error.

HYDE PARK

What you should know about Islam

An opinion submitted by Dawoud El-Husseini

World attitudes towards Islam and Muslims have been changing drastically because of the political events around the world, and especially in the Middle East. Usually the media examines Islam as a political phenomenon (as in the case of Islamic fundamentalism), and not as a moral system. This article, the first of two parts, is presented in an effort to clear the confusion and inform people about Islam.

Islam appeared approximately 1,400 years ago in the Middle East, an area where Judaism and Christianity originated. Islam reaffirms the beliefs which the previous prophets, including Abraham, Moses, and Jesus (Peace be upon all of them), propounded, namely submission and commitment to obey commandments of the one and only God. All who accept this are Muslims.

The essence of Islam is to be God conscious in all that we do, and out of his love, commit to obey his commandments in every sphere of our activity. Thus Islam is not only an ideology, but a methodology through which one establishes a way of life.

Islam is an Arabic word which in essence means the commitment to submit to Allah's commandments. The objective of these commandments is the establishment of peace in the human societies of the world, in preparation for a further dimension of human existence in the world to come; the Afterlife. Islam's vision of peace is therefore truly universal.

The message of Islam is in essence the same as that which God revealed to all his Prophets and messengers. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was commanded to recite in the Holy Qur'an:

"Say: we believe in Allah, and that which was revealed unto us, and that which was revealed unto Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac, Moses and Jesus and the prophets from their Lord; we make no distinction between and of them, and unto Him we have surrendered." (Translation of Qur'an 3:34)

The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and is the last revelation from God. It contains the highest value of human kind and the divine command-

ments of Allah. The Qur'an lays down principles to be established in every day life and in all affairs, to help in establishing, and preserving and maintaining an Islamic society. These principles are stated terms that remain valid for all time and are applicable at all stages of civilization and for all different parts of the world.

It is a universally accepted fact that the Qur'an still remains authentic in its original Arabic text as revealed by God to the prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Arabic is a very rich language and the mother tongue of millions of people covering a vast amount of lands extending from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east.

The Qur'an names the prophet Mohammad (PBUH) as "the seal [last] of the prophets". His life and mission is completely and authentically recorded to show how he exemplified the teachings and elaborated the principles laid down in the Qur'an in order to provide a sure guidance for their interpretation and application.

...LETTERS

Reform Party government in Ottawa?!

To the Daily,

I would like to comment on the reactions to the recent US congressional election. Many commentators see irony in the fact that Americans angry about unemployment and low pay should vote in such numbers for a party that openly sides with the rich against the interests of ordinary people. In fact, the voters responded quite rationally and predictably, given the constraints of the doctrine of Real Political Correctness which guides the policies of both the Democrats and Republicans — and the Liberals and Reformers in Canada.

Sure, voters are worried about unemployment, but everybody knows governments can't create jobs: it's just not Really Politically Correct. Sure, workers are getting less money, but everybody knows that higher wages cut into corporate profits and reduce competitiveness, so any talk about raising worker's pay or encouraging unionization is definitely Really Politically Incorrect. Sure, there are Americans without health insurance; sure, there's homelessness, poverty, and a rotting infrastructure; but any government initiative to remedy those problems would cost money, and it's Really Politically Incorrect for governments to spend money — everybody knows that.

Under these circumstances, there are

only two things a government can do that would have any favourable impact on the lives of a significant proportion of the electorate: cut taxes and imprison (and execute) unmanageable unemployed people in an increasingly privatized prison system. That's exactly what the Republicans have promised to do, and that's exactly what they'll do. The process is further advanced in the US, but the trend is exactly the same here in Canada. That's why Oliver North still has a good chance of getting into the US Senate someday, and that's why we Canadians will probably end up with a Reform Party government in Ottawa one of these years.

Sincerely yours, Mark Marshall

Palestinians and South African Blacks: Little Comparison

To the Daily,

I would like to comment on Mark Marshall's comparison of the treatment of Palestinians in the territories to South Africa's treatment of Blacks under apartheid. Although there are restrictions put on Palestinians in the territories for security reasons which are not put on Arabs inside Israel proper, the treatment of Palestinians does not compare to the treatment of Blacks under South African apartheid.

Palestinians from the territories are allowed to work in Israel and receive

similar pay and benefits as their Jewish counterparts. Palestinians are allowed to attend schools and universities and Palestinians have been given the opportunity to run many of their own affairs. None of this was true for South African Blacks. The only similarity between the two is that neither of them can (or could) vote. However, if Israel was to give Palestinians full citizenship it would mean that Israel would have to annex the territories. I'm pretty sure the Palestinians do not want that.

Phil Aitio
U1 Science

Andrew Bloom, please come into the office and cut your letter down to 300 words. Rafiq al-Samndal, your hyde park is also too long. Please come and cut it down to 500 words.



The Daily welcomes all letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and phone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. We print all letters provided they are not racist, sexist, homophobic or slanderous. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.

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THE MCGILL DAILY



"And now to explain the details of my immigration policy."

US spy budget tops \$28 billion

On Nov. 4, the Secrecy and Government Bulletin of the Federation of American Scientists published the United States' counter-intelligence budget. The overall figure was put at \$28 billion.

The document stated that the Central Intelligence Agency asked for and received \$3.1 billion this year. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and their special operations units got \$10.4 billion.

The Pentagon received \$13.2 billion for its intelligence operations. These include: the National Security Agency, which does global electronic surveillance; the National Reconnaissance Office, which builds billion-dollar spy satellites; and the Defense Intelligence Agency, which coordinates all the Pentagon's intelligence around the world.

Some figures that were not disclosed were those of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The CIA gets more money than the State Department. The Pentagon intelligence wing gets a little less than the entire Justice Department. The Pentagon's entire budget has no rival.

Source: *Workers World Service and The New York Transfer News Collective*

Statistics on violence against youths in Brazil

Between January 1991 and July 1993, 1,080 young people under 17 years of age have been killed in the State of Rio de Janeiro. Though these figures seem high, it cannot be said that this State is the "record holder" in the killings of youths.

Those who did this research mention that states like, Sao Paulo, Ceara, and Rio Grande de Sul, withheld data



relating to the first two years of the study (1991-1992). The state government of Bahia only gave information in reference to 1991 and this was limited to the city of Salvador. This same practice was used

by the States of Espirito Santo, Mato Grosso and Goias, as well as the Federal District

Source: *Servico Brasileiro de Justica e Paz and The New York Transfer News Collective*

Security Council votes to continue sanctions against Iraq

On Tuesday, the United Nations Security Council again voted to continue sanctions. Recently more than 20,000 US troops, aircraft carriers, war planes and cruise missiles were added to thousands of tanks, nuclear weapons and carriers already in the region.

The massive bombing of Iraq and the recent US deployment have cost billions of dollars. Four years of economic sanctions have killed over 400,000 Iraqis. The US/UN measures have caused annual inflation of 2,500 per cent. A 1993 study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) found that 45 per cent of the children in the city of Kerabala suffered from malnutrition.

The US has been demanding that Iraq recognize Kuwait as a precondition for lifting the sanctions. On November 10, the Iraqi government did recognize Kuwait, but now the US says this is not enough. The US government's new excuse for continuing sanctions is the claim that the movement of Iraqi troops within its own sovereign borders is a threat against Kuwait.

Before the Gulf war and four years of sanctions, Iraq had one of the best health and education systems in the entire Middle East. There was abundant food for everyone.

Source: *International Action Center and The New York Transfer News Collective*

Plan for environmental community centre found feasible:

"La Ressourcerie" needs funds to get started

BY SYBILLE HEISSLER AND REBECCA FRENCH

After two years of hard work and extensive research, one group's vision of a more environmentally responsible Montréal is finally becoming a reality.

Action RE-buts, a Montréal citizens coalition for environmentally and economically sound waste management, is the parent organization of a group working to start a system of "ressourceries" around the city. In September, the group made public a feasibility study for a Ressourcerie pilot project on the Plateau Mount-Royal.

The Ressourcerie will be a community centre which will try to minimize the waste produced in the district by promoting and implementing the three "R's": reduction,

reuse and recycling/composting, by order of importance.

Reduction of waste is the most important aim. The centre will offer educational displays by schools, universities and green businesses, courses and workshops, a telephone "hot line" on waste management questions and a small, specialized library.

The reuse of materials will be accomplished by a drop-off centre for goods such as books, toys, clothes and construction materials. Household appliances and furniture will be repaired and all goods will be resold on an ongoing basis.

The Ressourcerie's recycling service will be offered initially only in collaboration with the city. Co-ordinators plan to eventually expand services beyond the municipal program. They will also have a dem-

onstration centre for composting of organic waste.

With its general plans already in place, the group working on La Ressourcerie is now seeking funds for the project. Together with The Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG), they will be having an Activity and Information Week for the project from November 21 to 25 in the Leacock building. In January, a clothes drive will be held at all four Montreal universities. The clothes and other goods collected will be sold at a bazaar in the end of that month. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Ressourcerie pilot project.

The office of La Ressourcerie will be located at QPIRG McGill, 3647 University as of November 22. For more information, stop by or call 398-7457.

COMMENT

Immigration Reform: Economic Rationality or Racist Scare Tactics?

There is a lot of discussion about the economic aspects of immigration: We need immigrants of higher quality. We need immigrants who make an immediate contribution to Canadian society. We only want immigrants who have cash to invest.

What this economic focus obscures is the xenophobic sentiment fueling anti-immigrant arguments.

The facts simply do not exist to support the claim that immigrants are a drain on Canadian society (see feature in this issue). We are left to conclude that cuts to immigration are fueled by racist sentiments, and not pure economic rationality.

Says Maria Shin, executive director of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, "the real reason why people want to limit immigration is racism... There is still a prevailing mindset in this country that real Canadians are only those descended from British and French stock"

The fact is, we are not experiencing a sudden surge of immigration. As one editorialist in the *Ottawa Citizen* noted, what hasn't changed is the number of immigrants — what has changed in recent years is the colour of immigrants to Canada.

According to immigration minister, Serge Marchi, the Liberal government could increase the level of immigrants as promised during the election, but that would "run directly contrary to the direction that Canadians gave preference to during the public consultations." In Toronto, the public was given only two and a half unadvertised hours to express their views alongside of the Heritage Front. Only four other hearings were held to summarize opinions of the rest of Canada.

Even with unprecedented levels of political refugees worldwide, these few hours of consultation were enough to give Marchi the mandate to slash immigration levels by 35 per cent. It was also justification for cutting programs to reunite immigrants with their families — a proven factor in facilitating adjustment to Canadian life. Marchi also felt warranted to reverse Canada's long-standing practice of refusing to deport refugees to unsafe countries such as China, Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Sri Lanka, El Salvador, Guatemala and Ethiopia.

Instead of attempting to increase awareness of the contributions that immigrants have brought to Canadian society, Marchi's recent reforms pander to the whims of the right, and co-opts the policy of the Reform party. This party has grown by casting Canada's most vulnerable groups — immigrants, welfare victims, native Canadians — as the enemy. They have proposed mandatory HIV testing for all applicants, and changing the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to deny immigrants the right of appeal.

Xenophobic immigration policy is not a phenomenon confined to Canada. It is a broader trend linked to economic downturn and a rightward trend of North American politics.

The recent election in California passed Proposition 187 that will deny illegal immigrants (and their American-born children) access to education and health care. Under this proposition, an estimated 335,000 children will be denied access to education. Governor Pete Wilson acted the very next day to deny prenatal care for illegal immigrant mothers. Like the Reform Party, the American right targets society's less privileged members as villains.

Co-author of proposition 187, Harold Ezell, articulated this misguided nationalism and xenophobia, "The biggest mistake the opposition made was waving those green-and-white flags with the snake on it [the flag of Mexico]. They should have been waving the American flag."

Josee Johnston and Ahmer "hose-head" Qadeer

events

(continued on page 8)

- **Social work students for Justice** are holding a public forum against the proposed Axworthy reforms. The forum will include guest speakers from McGill's School of Social Work and the Canadian Federation of Students, followed by a strategy session. Wed. Nov. 23 18h-20h Room 104, Wilson Hall, McGill University. Info: Keith Patterson 848-0058 or Melissa Redmond 487-9465
- **Caribbean Women's Anthology** wants submissions from lesbians who are Caribbean both, culturally identified, or of Caribbean parentage. Deadline April 30, 1995. Send to Caribbean women's Anthology c/o Women's Press, 233-517 Col-

- lege ST, Toronto, Ontario Canada M6G 4A2
- **SSMU Meeting** Thurs. Nov. 17, 18h B09/10 Shatner. Issues to be discussed: Code of Student Conduct, Constitutional Reform, Voting by Phone. All Welcome
- **McGill Christian Fellowship** will have a potluck this Friday at 17h30 in Shatner Caf. Before the Bible study. All welcome. Info: Jean 288-9741
- **Cathedral Singers and Orchestra** will present "Messiah" by Handel Monday Dec. 5th 19h30. Christ Church Cathedral. Ste-Catherine, angle Université.
- **Women Physician's Reception** — a panel of women's physicians will

Ontario town hosts "European Heritage Week"

Dubious event sponsored by the Nationalist Party

BY SUMIT BANSAL

TORONTO (CUP) — St. Catharines, Ontario hosted a "European Heritage Week" earlier this month, sponsored by the Nationalist Party of Canada, and at least one other city almost did the same.

The celebrations included the unveiling of the "European Heritage Week Poster," depicting the likenesses of Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin, and featuring swastikas and Nazi slogans.

According to Nationalist Party secretary Robert Smith, the week was "a celebration that recognizes European additions to [Canadian] culture. We're very pleased with the celebrations that were held."

Richard Berman, research and communications officer for B'nai Brith Canada, a Jewish advocacy group, said, "Not to put too fine a point on it, but they're neo-Nazi racists. We were very concerned and upset at [St. Catharines Mayor] McAfery's support of neo-Nazi ideology."

McAfery's support came in the form of an official proclamation. He explained that he did not support the Nationalist Party itself, but was instead "recognizing the contributions of the European people to Canada."

Later, the mayor's Committee on Race and Ethnic Relations characterized the Nationalist Party, a Toronto-based group, as a racist organization.

Despite repeated attempts by the committee to warn other communities, several municipalities, like Halifax, NS and Victoria, BC voiced their support for the week. But they later backed down.

Committee co-ordinator Janice Dembo expressed frustration with the lack of attention other cities gave the situation.

"What is sad is that no one seemed to notice; no

one was prepared. You can't expect Victoria to be knowledgeable about the Nationalist Party, but they should have been [since we wrote to them]," she said.

The committee also received a letter from the Nationalist Party saying that the Queen of England gave the week a Royal Seal of Approval, only to rescind it later.

When questioned about the views of the Nationalist Party, Smith said, "We are aware of the controversy, and have to say that the important thing is not the messenger, but the message. Those communities that proclaimed the week and then decided not to, should remember that."

The St. Catharines event nearly repeated itself in Markham, Ontario. The Nationalist Party's open letter to city council had passed all levels of bureaucracy and was about to be passed into resolution when councillor David Tsubouchi realized where the letter came from.

"I saw the request from the Nationalist Party and had the resolution changed. They were very deceptive. Under the guise of being a legitimate organization, they sent in their request to hold a European Heritage Week."

Dembo suggested that proclamation-seekers should be questioned more thoroughly.

"Proclamations can be misused. Generally, if a group is requesting one, they should send in detailed information on exactly what they're doing. Questions need to be asked by the public — not to be judge, jury and censor, but to look into whether this is legitimate."

Smith said there will be another European Heritage Week next year. But whether or not it will receive the same recognition next time is doubtful.

Two Hundred gather to protest change in immigration policies

BY VALIA REINSALU

TORONTO (CUP) — More than 200 people congregated in front of the Toronto office of Immigration Canada recently to protest the Liberal government's new immigration policy.

The demonstrators, representing 20 different activist groups, said the proposed policy prevents equal access to the country on the basis of class. The demonstration was organized by the Toronto Coalition Against Racism.

Coalition representative Deena Ladd said the government should be dealing with what she feels to be the real crisis in Canada — free trade — rather than blaming immigrants and refugees for the shortage of jobs.

"We need to challenge the fact that refugees, immigrants and people of colour have been open scapegoats time and time again," Ladd said.

Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi's proposed bill C-44 recommends a major cut to immigration levels. Under the current policy, Canada should let in at least 230,000 people for 1994. The overall total next year is expected to be between 190,000 and 210,000.

University of Toronto alumnus Richard Norman, who

was at the protest, said the immigration policy is a total outrage. "It's against all of the principles of Canada, because most of us are immigrants," said Norman.

Norman said his family, of Protestant French descent, immigrated to Canada in the 17th century due to religious persecution.

"Just the idea that you can buy your way into Canada [is repugnant]," he said. "Because the people who come here, like my ancestors and many of my friends' ancestors, needed to come here because we had to leave — not because we had a lot of money."

Other protesters agreed.

"My main problem is that Mar-

chi is talking about this new citizenship deal where the obligations as well as the rights of citizens are all [spelled out]. Meanwhile he's acting as if this doesn't include basic human obligations and basic human rights," said Ryerson student Julian Diego.

"The thing I'm upset about is the overall hypocrisy but also, beyond that, is the impact it's going to have on people's lives in terms of being with their families."

Diego said he is disappointed with the lack of attention the immigration issue has received at his own ethnically-diverse campus.

"I think a lot of it is because they feel terrorized by the federal government because of the amount of funding that nobody is getting," Diego added.

Winnie Ng from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women said Marchi needs to be reminded that, with the exception of aboriginal people, all Canadians are immigrants and refugees or their descendants.

Ng added that the new policy would relegate women to second-class citizens, especially with the reduction of the family reunification program.

The new policy, which would require Canadian sponsors to put up a bond, guaran-

teed for 10 years, could potentially trap victims of violence, she said.

The new document also stipulates a user fee for settlement services, preventing free access to English as a second language classes or immigrant counselling services.

"If immigrants pay taxes then they should have the same entitlement to goods and services," Ng said.

"What Sergio Marchi is doing with the changes to the immigration policy is taking away the compassionate and humanitarian aspects of our immigration policy. What we need is a fair and just policy."

"We need to challenge the fact that refugees, immigrants and people of colour have been open scapegoats time and time again"

— Deena Ladd of the Toronto Coalition Against Racism

Maclean's prints phoney list

York Excalibur's "What's Hot/What's Not" really a spoof

BY TRACY HITCHCOCK

OTTAWA (CUP) — According to the staff at the York Excalibur, when they submitted a phoney list of what's hot and what's not on campus to Maclean's as part of the magazine's annual university survey, they did not think it would actually make it to print.

Maclean's sent a fax to student newspapers at 51 universities across the country asking them to make a list of "what's hot and what's not" on their respective campuses.

According to Catharine Soukeroff, the paper's editor-in-chief, the staff of the Excalibur thought the request was just a "token offering" to appease those who had criticized Maclean's in the past for not having enough student input in the issue.

Soukeroff said the newspaper's staff wanted to "send a message" about what they thought of the request. She noted that she "definitely" didn't think the bogus list would make it to print.

"We were sitting around and we were saying, 'Wouldn't it be funny if they printed it?' — but we expected they would fact-check it."

Seven things were published in Maclean's as "what's hot" at York University. Five are false.

For example, there are no virtu-

Seven things were published in Maclean's as "what's hot" at York University. Five are false. For example, there are no virtual-reality seminars at York, no breast-feeding facilities for student moms and no master's degree in creative writing

al-reality seminars at York, no breast-feeding facilities for student moms, and no master's degree in creative writing (that program was actually cut last year in a storm of controversy).

Soukeroff also said there is no new makeshift theatre, as the paper told Maclean's, only "an old one and it's falling apart."

And the Nellie Langford Visual Arts Library is actually the Nellie Langford Women's Studies Library. There is no visual arts library at all.

In the "what's not" section, several entries are also false.

For example, the list says York's radio station "plays too much classic rock." It actually plays only hip hop and airs talk shows. Also false were statements that there is not enough convenience food on cam-

pus and not enough liquor-licensed establishments.

According to the list, the "hot hangout" on campus is Mac's Well Pub. "It's a closet with a table and it doesn't even have a liquor licence," Soukeroff said.

One Excalibur staff member said Maclean's did call to fact-check some items, but obviously didn't do a thorough job.

When asked how information in the "What's Hot, What's Not" section was verified, Victor Dwyer, Maclean's Education Editor, said facts were checked as they would be with any story.

"But we also assume that other journalists would tell us the truth, just as you are assuming that I am telling you the truth," Dwyer commented.

FACT VS. FICTION

Immigration myths debunked

BY DOMINIQUE NOUVET

BY NOW, MOST PEOPLE are aware of Minister Marchi's new immigration proposal, which was announced on November 1. Many have concluded that the decisions are, in real terms, insignificant. After all, the expected number of immigrants to Canada this year — 230,000 — falls short of the old target of 25,000 anyway. This opinion is captured by *Gazette* writer William Johnson, who claimed on November 2, "Despite the glitz, Marchi's immigration plan is a minor adjustment."

Reform MP Art Hanger agreed, stating in the *Gazette* on the same day that the new policy is "pure smoke and mirrors." Perhaps his party does not realize the true magnitude of its victory: while it is obvious that laws do not always translate into immediate concrete changes in society, they do represent the values of a nation. While the practical impact of Marchi's policy is debatable, its moral importance is not. The Liberal party is actively fueling the anti-immigration Reform party electorate. In a more general sense, it is contributing to the credibility of many false assumptions about immigration:

Myth: Immigration is costly to Canadians, and we are not in a position to spend money on immigrants at this point in time.

There is a reason why immigration opponents do not justify this claim with concrete figures: it is false. Study after study has demonstrated that immigrants make a net contribution to Canadian society. Research collected by the Toronto Coalition Against Racism shows that immigrants consistently put more into the system through taxes and economic activity than they take out through the services they consume.

One such study, conducted by Professor Ather Akbari at the University of Halifax found, "immigrants are 23 per cent less likely to draw unemployment insurance than native-born Canadians."

In fact, it is probable that many

immigrants could be even larger economic contributors if it were not for the current policies which seem to actively discourage this from happening. It is not difficult to encounter a newcomer whose employment does nothing to reflect his or her knowledge and qualifications; the reason for this is that the government often refuses to validate degrees obtained in foreign countries.

One Haitian woman, who was formerly the financial manager of a bank in her nation commented on this. Although she wished to be unnamed — as she is still awaiting a decision on her status in Canada — she stated assertively that the system is incredibly "frustrating."

"My diplomas are recognized in France, but here they are worth nothing," she added. She was not even given the opportunity to take any "equivalence" tests to prove her knowledge, and was instead obliged to seek employment in a factory.

At a time when unemployment is high, immigrants worsen the situation by taking the jobs of Canadians.

There seems to be a contradiction between this argument and the preceding one, that immigrants constitute an "economic burden" to Canadians. It becomes difficult not to conclude that immigration is being used as a scapegoat for a variety of current socio-economic problems.

Indeed, when it is kept in mind that even the old target of 250,000 immigrants represents only 0.86 per cent of the total Canadian population, it should be evident that we need to look elsewhere to explain why roughly 10 per cent of our labour force is without work.

Myth: Immigrants are disruptive to the social fabric of Canada. They are a source of tension, and have contributed to the increase in crime.

Just as it would be false to claim that the violent crime rate in Canada has been increasing, it would be untrue to affirm the above statement. Immigrants are less likely to be in jail, and accounted for barely

half as many penitentiary inmates as of 1989 as their share of the population would warrant.

Marcia Aiquel, who works with women immigrants, questioned the sudden concern with the topic of immigration and crime: "The timing seems rather strange. Indeed, the focus resembles the intense interest which the media developed in respect to youth offenders. In both cases, coverage of these issues has, inaccurately, enlarged the problems: a small number of cases have been transformed into generalizations, giving them unwarranted ubiquitousness."

If anything, immigration seems to play a role in counteracting problems such as crime and juvenile delinquency: at a time when the domestic life of so many North Americans is unpredictable, or involves few ties with relatives, it is apparent that there are cultures which have continued to stress the importance of the family. Regardless of the evolution of our concept of the family, most would agree that the principle of stability which lies behind this nucleus is one which can only benefit society.

Unfortunately, the new immigration policy does not seem to accept this premise: it will actually narrow the definition of the family, and will decrease the percentage of family-class immigrants allowed into Canada. Thus, for those who are concerned by today's social problems, Marchi's proposals seem only more illogical.

How did the above misconceptions about immigration arise? They arose probably because opinions are often based on isolated examples. Both sides of the immigration debate can adopt this incomplete approach. I personally have met many immigrants who can proudly state that they have succeeded independently in Canada, without relying on government support. Similarly, those who oppose immigration can cite their own, very different cases. In the end however, the Canadian immigration policy should be created in response to the overall situation. Thus, when it can be stated unambiguously that immigration has consistently benefited Canada, the logical foundations of Marchi's new proposal become highly elusive.

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

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14 - NOTICES

McGill Nightline is an information, listening and referral service. Open 6pm-3am. 398-6246.

LBGM discussion grps. Wed. 5:30 Bi-Group Shatner 423. Thurs. 7PM women's grp. Shatner 423. Fri. coming-out 5:30 & General 7PM, 3521 University.

15- VOLUNTEERS

The McConnell Brain Imaging Centre is looking for male/female paid volunteers to participate in brain function studies using radioisotope. Call Gary or Rick at 398-8932.

Need experience with babies & pre-schoolers or with multiculturalism? Volunteers for Parenthèse, a group for mothers and their young children. Tues. or Thurs. (1:30 - 4:30 pm) at CLSC Metro. Info: Cyndy Spielberg. 934-0354.

THE FINAL ISSUE OF THE FALL SEMESTER WILL BE PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 7TH, 1994. BOOK YOUR AD TODAY BY CALLING BORIS OR LETTY AT 398-6790.

events events events events events

continued from page 5

discuss their specialties and how gender impacts on their profession. Informal and interactive. Tues, Nov. 22, 7:30, Thompson House Basement.

• The Canadian Studies Graduate Students' Association will be holding its first general meeting and social at Thompson House on Thurs. Nov. 17, 5pm. All graduate students with an interest in Canada are encouraged to attend. Info: 398-8346

• Internet! The Student Electronic Communications collective (SECC) is a new student group that meets every Tues. in Arts 350 @ 19:00 to discuss electronic communications, the Internet, privacy and access is-

sues here at McGill. We're also setting up a Virtual Union Building on the Arts WWW server. Come get involved! Anon FTP debra. dgbt. doc. ca

• McGill Player's Theatre presents "Cabaret" the Kander and Ebb musical. Nov. 15-26 at Player's Theatre-3480 McTavish St. 3rd floor. Come to the Cabaret! Reservations 398-6813

• McGill's Department of Linguistics presents Peter Laserohn of the University of Rochester speaking on "Verbal Plurality and Conjunction". Thurs. Nov. 17 at 4:40. Bronfman 37.

• WUSC McGill will have a meeting Thursday, November 17th at

18h, in rm. 428 of the Shatner building to discuss an upcoming symposium. For info., call 284-0609.

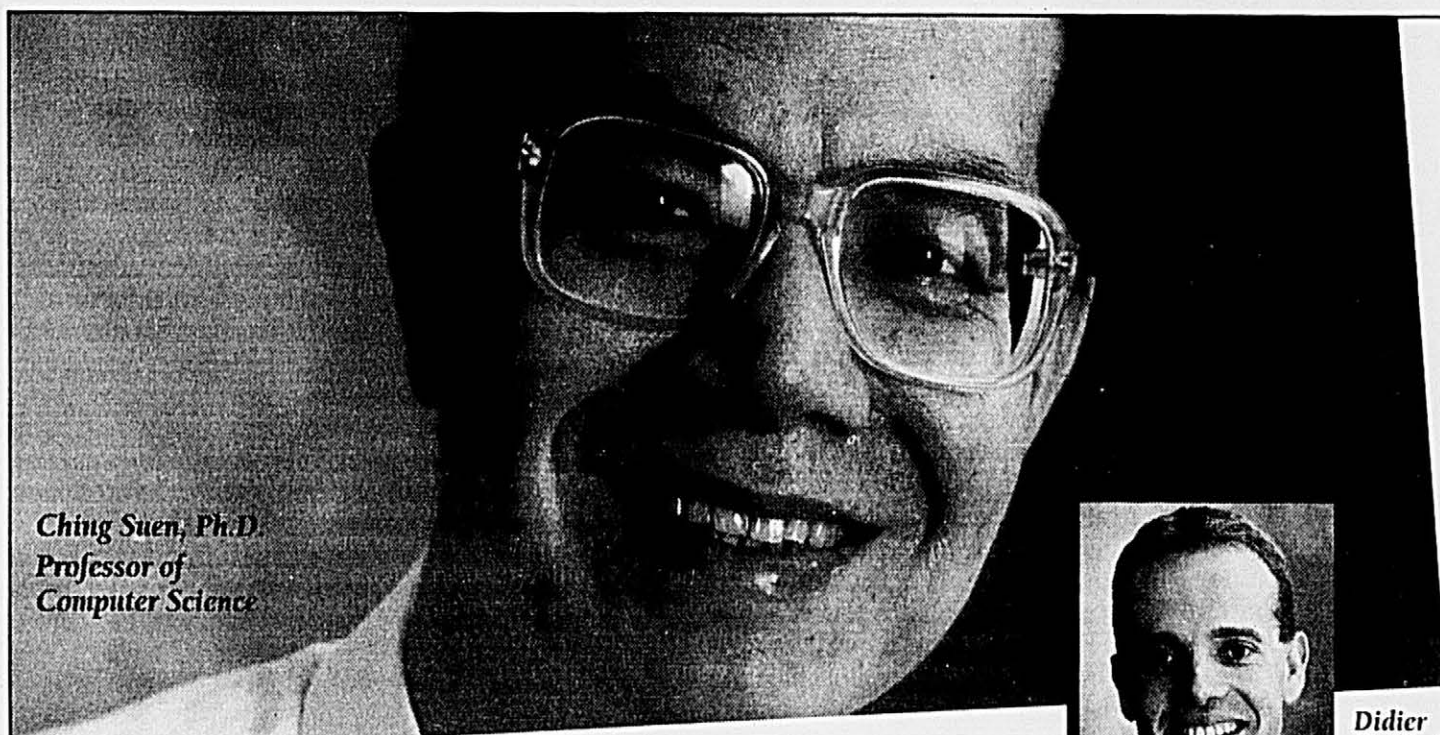
• Image Ensemble (Film Production Society) is holding a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 16th at 20h, in Shatner 107/108, to discuss potential scripts to be used in production. Sign-ups for apprenticeships are on a first-come basis. Preference will be given to members, but anyone interested in getting on-set experience is welcome. More info in Shatner 433 or call 849-3427.

• PSSA presents a Poli. Sci. Grad. School Seminar with speakers Professors Booth and Oxhorn of McGill's Dept. of Political Science. The seminar will be held in Leacock

517 on Wednesday, November 16th, between 11h30 and 13h. Everyone welcome!

• The McGill Taiwanese Students' Association presents its first Language Exchange social get-together on Saturday, November 19th at 19h in Thompson House. All participants welcome. If you don't know where Thompson House is, meet in the Shatner lobby at 18h45. For info., call Helen at 284-3482.

• Women's Health is the next topic the Women's Union discussion group will be toying with. The group meets every Monday at 17h in Shatner 423. Different issues each week. All women (with home baking) welcome.



Ching Suen, Ph.D.
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